

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1636

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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INFO NASA HQTRS

NASA WOLLOPS ISLAND

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TSPA, OTRA, AR, BR

SUBJECT: SPACE COOPERATION - EXAMETNET PROGRAM VISITS

REF STATE 62918

1. VISIT OF DUKE, EXAMETNET PROGRAM MANAGER ; SCHMIDLIN, ANIKIS AND FOSTER MOST USEFUL IN DEMONSTRATING US INTEREST IN PROGRAM AND NEED FOR EFFECTIVE ARGENTINE COOPERATION. IN ADDITION TO TECHNICAL CONVERSATIONS, GROUP CALLED ON BRIG ZAPPINO, NEW DIRECTOR ARGENTINE SPACE RESEARCH COMMISSION (CNIE), WHO REAFFIRMED ARGENTINE INTEREST IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH NASA, BUT STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF CONCRETE OBJECTIVES AND PRACTICAL RESULTS IN PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY CNIE. ZAPPINO CLOSELY QUESTIONED PURPOSES OF EXAMETNET PROGRAM, AND SEEMED TO FEEL THAT RESPONSES FURNISHED BY VISITING GROUP PROVIDED BASIS FOR CONTINUING ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION.

2. WHILE WE DO NOT FEEL THAT CONTINUED ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION IN EXAMETNET AT ABOUT CURRENT LEVEL IS IN ANY JEOPARDY, AND INDEED HAS PROBABLY BEEN ENHANCED BY RECENT VISIT, CONVERSATIONS AT BOTH TECHNICAL LEVEL AND WITH ZAPPINO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT FOR EXPANDED ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION EITHER IN DIRECTION OF MORE FREQUENT LAUNCHINGS

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OR ACTIVATION OF NEW AND MORE SOUTHERLY LAUNCH SITE.

3. WHILE EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS POLICY OF REQUIRING ADEQUATE COUNTER APART ON PART OF ARGENTINA, WE BELIEVE THAT EXACT NATURE AND SCALE OF THIS COUNTERPART MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RELATIVE US AND ARGENTINE INTERESTS IN PROGRAM RESULTS, AS WELL AS RESPECTIVE RESOURCES OF PARTIES. PRESENT ARGENTINE CONTRIBUTION IN FORM OF FURNISHING LAUNCH SITE AND LAUNCH SERVICES (EXAMETNET IS PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY OF MAR CHIQUITA SITE) AND PURCHASE OF US ROCKETS IS PROBABLY LARGEST CONTRIBUTION WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED FROM ARGENTINA ON BASIS ITS INTEREST IN RESULTS OF PROGRAM. IF US HAS STRONG INTEREST IN ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL DATA THAT WOULD RESULT FROM MORE FREQUENT LAUNCH SCHEDULE OR MORE SOUTHERLY SITE, WE BELIEVE THAT GREATER OVERALL COST-EFFECTIVENESS COULD BE ACHIEVED, AND NO BASIC US PRINCIPLE OF SOUND COOPERATION WOULD BE VIOLATED, IF US WERE TO SUPPLY ADDITIONAL ROCKET SYSTEMS FOR LAUNCHING BY ARGENTINA.
LODGE

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